

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application. It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has allowed Claim 4. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawyer et al. (U.S. Patent 5,946,629) in view of Blanchard et al. (U.S. Patent 6,408,191).

Regarding the rejections of Claims 1 and 3 under §103(a), the Examiner states that Sawyer et al. in view of Blanchard et al. renders the claims unpatentable. Sawyer et al. discloses a cellular telephone network having short message service interaction with other networks; Blanchard et al. discloses an arrangement for displaying message screens on a telephone terminal. The Examiner states that Sawyer et al. fails to disclose determining whether a forwarding function is set for a called mobile terminal in the MC; and transmitting the SMS message to a destination mobile terminal if it is determined that the forwarding function is set. The Examiner states that Blanchard et al. cures this defect and cites col. 3, line 63 – col. 4, line 6 as disclosing this element. In particular, col. 4, lines 2-6 state, “This store and forward functionality enables the message center to forward the SMS message to the telephone terminal at the appropriate time for conveying it to the user of the telephone terminal.” There are only two (2) entities disclosed by Blanchard et al., a caller and the called terminal relating to this “store and forward” function. The forwarding function of Blanchard et al. enables a user to set a time to send a SMS message (left by the caller) from a message center to the mobile terminal.

Claim 1 of the present application recites, “requesting transmission of an SMS message from a calling mobile terminal to the MC; determining whether a forwarding function is set for a called mobile terminal in the MC; transmitting the SMS message to the called mobile terminal if it is determined that the forwarding function is not set; and transmitting the SMS message to a destination mobile terminal if it is determined that the forwarding function is set.” Claim 3 of the present application recites, “requesting transmission of an SMS message from a calling mobile terminal to a called MC via a calling MSC; checking the subscriber information of a called mobile terminal in the called MC and requesting transmission of the SMS message from the MC; searching for the subscriber information of the called mobile terminal and determining whether a forwarding function is set for the called mobile terminal in the called MC; requesting

transmission of the SMS message from the called MC to a destination MC if it is determined that the forwarding function is set; and checking the subscriber information of a destination mobile terminal in the destination MC and transmitting the SMS message from the destination MC to the destination mobile terminal.”

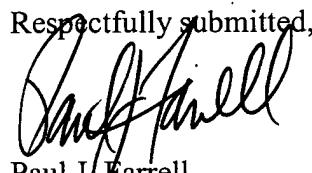
Each of Claims 1 and 3 recites three (3) mobile terminals, namely, a calling mobile terminal, a called mobile terminal, and a destination mobile terminal. Claim 3 additionally recites three (3) MCs, namely, a calling MC, a called MC, and a destination MC. If the forwarding function is set, the SMS message sent from the calling terminal is not sent to the called mobile terminal, but instead is sent to the destination mobile terminal. As neither Sawyer et al. nor Blanchard et al., alone or in combination, teach or disclose these elements, the rejections must be withdrawn.

Based on at least the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1 and 3 under §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1 and 3 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claim 2, this is likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of its dependence on its respective amended independent claim. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claim 2 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-4, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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